

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 EUR-08 NEA-07 EA-06 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IO-03 L-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6911

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2624

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, BG, XO

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

REF: STATE 123690

1. LAST AUTHORITATIVE PUBLIC REFERENCE BY BDG TO
DIEGO GARCIA WAS MADE ON DECEMBER 10, 1974. IT WAS
PART OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF INDIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN'S VISIT TO DACCA. RELEVANT PORTION
SAID: BEGIN QUOTE: THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS NOYFR
THAT IN SPITE OF THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY COUNTRIES
OKIN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA ABOUT THE EXPANSION OF GREAT
POWER RIVALRY AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION,
INCREASED AND HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED NAVAL EXERCISES
ARE NONETHELESS BEING CARRIED OUT. THEY EXPRESSED
PARTICULAR CONCERN NOST TT PROPOSAL TO KHPAND THE
MILITARY NAVAL FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA IN THE INDIAN
OCEAN. THEY CONSIDERED THESE DEVELOPMENTS TO BE
CONTRARY TO THE CONSENSUS IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY
AND IN THE UN THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA SHOULD BE A ZONE
OF PEACE. THEY STRESSED THAT THE CONTINUATION OF SUCH
MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE REGION WOULD AGGRAVATE POWER
RIVALRY AND POSE A DIRECT THREAT TO PEACE AND STABILITY
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IN THE AREA. END QUOTE.

2. WE HAVE HAD NO AUTHORITATIVE PRIVATE EXPRESSION OF HOST GOVERNMENT POSITION SINCE THAT TIME. IF WE ASKED FOR BDG'S UANDID VIEW, WE THINK THEY WOULD TELL US THEY ARE AGAINST IT AND URGE US TO RECONSIDER.

3. EXCEPT FOR SEVERAL LOW-KEY OFFICIAL COMMENTS WHEN DIEGO GARCIA ISSUE FIRST AROSE, THE JOINT BANGLADESH-INDIAN COMMUNIQUE OF DECEMBER, 1974 AND ANOTHER JOINT INDO-BANGLADESH COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN FEBRUARY 1974 HAS BEEN ONLY SPECIFIC PUBLIC REFERENCE BY BDG

TO DIEGO GARCIA. THE INTERVENING SILENCES SUGGEST TO US THAT BANGLADESH IS NOT INTERESTED IN MAKING AN ISSUE OF DIEGO GARCIA IF IT POSSIBLE TO AVOID DOING SO. REFERENCES TO DIEGO GARCIA IN JOINT INDO-BANGLADESH COMMUNIQUE REVEAL MORE THE EXTENT TO WHICH NEED FOR EFFECTIVE RELATIONS WITH INDIA CAN XBMPEL BANGLADESH TO BREAK ITS SILENCE THAN IT DOES ANYTHING ELSE. BANGLADESH PREFERS TO RELY ON "INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE" RUBRIC WHENEVER POSSIBLE. THIS IS CLEARLY A SOFT CODE WORD FOR DIEGO GARCIA BUT ONE WHICH ALLOWS IT TO (I) POINT OUT TO INDIA HOW CLOSELY SOVIET BLANDISHMENTS RE AN "ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM". OF COURSE, WHEN THE INDIANS INSIST, BANGLADESH WILL JOIN IN CONDEMNING DIEGO GARCIA.
BOSTER

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